

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Michael Garces

Date: August 27, 2024

DAS Assignment # 2

Name of the defendant: Carrie Lee Bass

License number of the defendant: 774482

Dates actions were taken against the license: August 22, 2016; February 28, 2018; June 18, 2018; and March 12, 2019

Type of action taken against the license: Enforced suspension

- *Use the space below to describe the events which led to the action(s) taken against the license. If multiple charges were in play, be sure and cite them, e.g. drug diversion, HIPAA violation, abandonment, forfeiture on student loans, etc.*

The Respondent was employed as a registered nurse in a clinical setting at Mainland Medical Center, Texas City, Texas when the incidents happened. The Respondent tested positive for opiate use on several occasions.

On August 22, 2016, the Respondent engaged in the use and tested positive for opiates. She admitted that she was using Methadone and used her husband's Hydrocodone and Oxycodone. On February 28, 2018, the Respondent tested positive for using Oxymorphone. On June 18, 2018, the Respondent tested positive again for using Oxymorphone. The Respondent, for the final time, tested again positive for using Oxymorphone on March 12, 2019. Based on these events, the Respondent was showing that she had opiates addiction, which is strictly prohibited without a prescription.

In conclusion, the Respondent was negligent of her actions. Using opiate medications, especially, while on the job, could impair a nurse's ability to make accurate judgements and assessments, and perform critical thinking with regards to patient care. A patient under her care, at that time, could be seriously harmed or worse end up passing because she is under the influence.

- *Use the space below to provide a description of measures you think could have prevented any action being taken against the license and/or would have prevented harm to the patient, if harm occurred.*

It was not stated how long she has been using opiate medications, but it may have been longer in duration than the said incidents, plus her spouse might have also been a user, that is why getting out of it will be difficult. If the Respondent could have subjected herself to TPAPN, it would have been avoided. It is a good thing that no patient, under her care, got seriously harmed.

- *Identify ALL universal competencies were violated and explain how.*
Universal competencies that were violated were Safety and Security, Communication, Critical Thinking, and Documentation.

Safety and Security: The Respondent, while on duty and under the influence of a prohibited medication, would seriously harm a patient.

Professional Role: The Respondent should not have been, in any circumstances, under the influence of prohibited medications while on duty. She should have subjected herself to TPAPN.

- *Use the space below to describe what action you think a prudent nurse would take as the first to person to discover the event described. In other words, you are the one who discovers the patient has been harmed by the nurse or you have discovered the impairment or criminal activity cited in the disciplinary action.*
- If I were the first person to discover this, I would have advised her to get help. I know it is hard to get out of a habit, but it is the only way. I would also let the charge nurse know. That way, any potential serious injury or harm will not happen to a patient.